



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #FTL-04-003

TITLE: Supporting Tribal Considerations in U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Identification Policies

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, beef production in Indian Country represents one of the largest sources of agriculture income to Indian Tribal Governments and individual Indians; and

WHEREAS, due to the recent homeland security measures regarding protection of American meat products on the market requiring 48-hour trace back producer capability on all meat products entering the food chain; and

WHEREAS, future meat marketing opportunities, both national and international, are dependent on the ability of producers to comply with the 48-hour trace back requirement and is costly to the individual producers; and

WHEREAS, Indian owned and operated producers in Indian country must have the capability to communicate with numerous entities including federal and state inspectors which also is a burden to these individual producers.

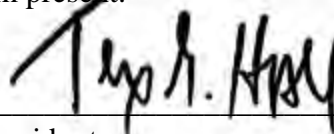
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request the U.S. Department of Agriculture to adopt and implement the following considerations into the 48-hour trace back requirements:

- A system that will minimize cost to Indian owned and operated producers within Indian country without impacting Indian growers;
- The data collected from the 48-hour trace back process must be excluded from the Freedom of Information Act to encourage producer confidence in security of the data.
- This data must continue to be controlled by individual Indian Tribes or sanctioned tribal Organizations.
- A system that will not expand current communications requirements without provisions to deflect costs to Indian owned and operated producers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, beef production base line data collected from Indian Country should be included in development and implementation of future federal programs that will ensure tribal inclusion in meat industry circles as well as provide documentation in the education of governments on the contribution of Indian agriculture to local, state, and national economies.

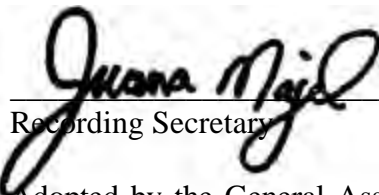
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 61st Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida on October 10-15, 2004 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 61st Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held from October 10th to the 15th at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.